

The Ottoman Empire in the Early Modern World (A006636)

Course size *(nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)*

Credits 5.0 **Study time 150 h**

Course offerings in academic year 2026-2027

A (semester 1) English Gent

Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

Gündüz-Polat, Irem	LW21	staff member
Thérouin, Vincent	LW21	staff member
Markiewicz, Christopher	LW21	lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027

	crdts	offering
Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures(main subject Arabic and Islamic Studies)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in History	5	A
Exchange Programme History	5	A
Linking Course Master of Arts in History	5	A
Preparatory Course Master of Arts in History	5	A
Elective Set History	5	A

Teaching languages

English

Keywords

Ottoman Empire, early modern history, Middle East, imperialism, Islam, Turkish culture

Position of the course

Between the fourteenth and sixteenth centuries, the Ottoman Sultanate transformed from a growing regional power at the peripheries of European and Islamic lands to a world empire with ambitions for universal rule. It straddled Asia, Africa, and Europe, created a flexible imperial system encompassing many peoples, languages, and religions, and connected systems of trade, politics, and culture across continents for centuries. Like many polities and societies across Eurasia, the Ottoman Empire also confronted a conjuncture of complex and threatening political and social crises in the seventeenth century, yet its flexible approach to change allowed it to survive into the modern age and so shape the political, social, and cultural contours of many countries in Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa in our own day.

This course examines the development of Ottoman state and society in the early modern period by introducing the main outlines of Ottoman history up to the eighteenth century. The course situates these developments in relation to the major historiographical debates that have animated the study of early modern history and global history. The course complements the content and key concepts introduced to students through 'Introduction to the History of Islamic West Asia (600-1800)', 'Early Modern History (A002680)', and 'Global Processes from a Historical Perspective (A002630)'.

Contents

Through interactive classes and the reading of a variety of sources students acquire knowledge of and insight into the historical, cultural and socio-religious dynamics of the Ottoman Empire from its founding in the fourteenth century until the eighteenth century.

Initial competences

Basic knowledge of the history and culture of the Middle East, acquired through the course 'Introduction to the History of Islamic West Asia (600-1800)' and 'Introduction to Islam and Being Muslim', or through other means.

Final competences

- 1 To explain the major historical processes that shaped the Ottoman Empire between the fourteenth and eighteenth centuries.
- 2 To identify and engage with key academic issues and debates on the history of the Ottoman Empire between the fourteenth and eighteenth centuries.
- 3 To situate key events in relation to their wider historical context.

Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is unrestricted: the student takes into consideration the conditions mentioned in 'Starting Competences'

Conditions for exam contract

Access to this course unit via an exam contract is unrestricted

Teaching methods

Seminar, Lecture

Extra information on the teaching methods

Interactive classes

Study material

Type: Slides

Name: Powerpoint

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Available on Ufora : Yes

Type: Reader

Name: Reader with texts and articles

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Available on Ufora : Yes

References

- Howard, Douglas. A History of the Ottoman Empire. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2017.
- Karateke, Hakan and Helga Anetshofer (eds.). The Ottoman World. A Cultural History Reader, 1450-1700. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2021.
- Meñage, V.L. and Colin Imber (eds.), Ottoman Historical Documents: The Institutions of an Empire. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2021.
- Woodhead, Christine (ed.). The Ottoman World. Abingdon, UK: Routledge, 2011.

Course content-related study coaching

Directly in the class (interactive classes) through Ufora
Through office hours

Assessment moments

end-of-term and continuous assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the first examination period

Oral assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the second examination period

Oral assessment

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Participation

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

examination during the second examination period is not possible

Extra information on the examination methods

NPE: Active and constructive participation in the classes on the basis of reading

assignments and guiding questions.

PE: At the end of the semester the course is assessed through an oral exam with written preparation.

Calculation of the examination mark

NPE: 20%

PE: 80%

Students must pass both NPE and PE assessments in order to pass the course as a whole.

Facilities for Working Students

Possibility to change the NPE part into an assignment.

Possibility to move oral exam.

Possibility to move feedback.